

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended):           A microscope comprising:

an arcuate microscope arm, said arcuate microscope arm comprising an interior and an exterior surface; said interior surface comprising at least one ~~fixed~~ recessed portion, said at least one ~~fixed~~ recessed portion is arcuate and extends from said interior surface of said microscope arm to an inner recess surface of said microscope arm, said at least one ~~fixed~~ recessed portion comprising a surface for gripping said microscope, wherein said interior surface is proximate to a user of said microscope and said exterior surface is opposite said interior surface.

Claim 10 (currently amended):        The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said at least one ~~fixed~~ recessed portion comprises at least one wall extending from said inner recess surface to said interior surface.

Claim 11 (currently amended):        The microscope of Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10 wherein a portion of said at least one wall is selected from the group consisting of planar, arcuate, spherical, and ellipsoidal.

Claim 12 (currently amended):        The microscope of Claim 9 wherein a portion of said at least one ~~fixed~~ recessed portion is disposed at a position above a microscope stage and below a microscope objective turret.

Claim 13 (currently amended):        The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said at least one ~~fixed~~ recessed portion comprises a textured surface for increasing the a static coefficient of friction thereof.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said at least one fixed recessed portion is shaped for complementarily accepting a portion of the human hand.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said at least one recessed portion is a removable panel ~~interior surface further comprises a removable panel, said removable panel having at least one recessed portion, said at least one recessed portion extending from said interior surface of said curved microscope arm to an arcuate inner recess surface of said removable panel, said recessed portion comprising a surface for gripping said microscope.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 15 wherein a portion of said at least one recessed portion is disposed above a stage and below an objective turret of said microscope.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said at least one recessed portion comprises at least one wall extending from said inner recess surface to said interior surface and said at least one wall is selected from the group consisting of planar, arcuate, spherical, and ellipsoidal.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said at least one recessed portion comprises a textured surface for increasing ~~the~~ a static coefficient of friction thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said at least one recessed portion extends from said interior surface of said microscope arm to a side of said microscope arm.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A microscope comprising:

a curved microscope arm having a curved interior surface and a curved exterior surface; said curved interior surface comprising at least one fixed recessed portion, said at least one fixed recessed portion extending from said curved interior surface of said curved microscope arm to an arcuate inner recess surface of said curved microscope arm, said at least one fixed recessed portion comprising a surface for gripping said microscope, wherein said curved interior surface is proximate to a user of said microscope and said curved exterior surface is opposite said curved interior surface.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said at least one fixed recessed portion comprises at least one wall extending from said inner recess surface to said interior surface.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 20 wherein the shape of a portion of said at least one wall is selected from the group consisting of planar, arcuate, spherical, and ellipsoid.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said at least one fixed recessed portion comprises a plurality of walls, said plurality of walls extending from said interior surface to said inner recess surface.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 23 wherein said plurality of walls slope from said interior surface to said inner recess surface.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 20 wherein a portion of said at least one fixed recessed portion is disposed above a microscope stage and below a microscope objective turret.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said at least one fixed recessed portion comprises a textured surface for increasing ~~the~~ a static coefficient of friction thereof.

Claim 27 (currently amended):        The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said at least one fixed recessed portion is shaped for complementarily accepting a portion of the human hand.

Claim 28 (new):                        The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said at least one recessed portion is integral with said interior surface.